GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1534
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
INCREASE IN BEGGARS
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a tremendous increase of beggars in the Delhi;

(b) if so, whether these beggars are generally seen begging at the various cross-roads of NCT of Delhi;

(c) if so, whether Government plans to curb this nuisance value of beggars on Delhi roads;

(d) whether the Government proposes to rehabilitate such beggars; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) & (b) As per the information furnished by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi, no study has been conducted recently for ascertaining the number of beggars on streets. However, no increase has been reported in the Delhi Government certified institutions for beggars.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has launched an awareness campaign in association with Delhi Traffic Police, whereby motorists giving alms to beggars on road intersections are being fined and over 2000 message boards containing anti-begging massages have been place on pole kiosks and road railings at red light crossings in Delhi. Plans are being made for carrying the campaign further by using various mass media tools. Anti-begging squads of the Government of NCT of Delhi have also intensified raids for apprehending beggars at public places from time to time. At present regular and frequent raids are being conducted by the Government of NCT of Delhi as part of it's intensive drive against begging specially in New Delhi District.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir. Under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act 1959, The Government of NCT of Delhi has established 12 custodial institutions for beggars where services like boarding, lodging, medical care, vocational training, counselling and guidance are provided for weaning them away from beggary and making them self-reliant. A scheme of stipend has also been initiated in these institutions whereby, the inmates taking part in vocational training and other activities are provided a fixed amount of money as an incentive, which also serves as seed capital for helping the released inmates in starting their own trade. Rehabilitation programme through counseling/psychiatric treatment by Non Governmental Organizations has also been initiated in Lampur Complex recently.